

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Techniques and tools for creating and using identifiers for software applications are described. The identifiers act as “fingerprints” for applications and are distinctive enough to differentiate software applications from one another. In one implementation, the identifiers are unique fixed-length strings generated by hashing application data. For example, a unique fixed-length string can be created by applying a one-way hashing algorithm to a combination of graphical icon data for the application and the name of the application executable. The unique fixed-length string can then be used for later reference, e.g. in a database lookup.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Described techniques and tools can use any of the one-way hashing algorithms described above, or other application identifier generation algorithms. For example, in one implementation, one or more hashing functions included in Microsoft Corporation’s Cryptography API (CryptoAPI, where API refers to an “Application Programming Interface”) are used. For more information, see Microsoft Corporation’s Cryptography API Software Developer’s Kit.